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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/710,411	07/08/2004	Irving Solomon	8868.4811	4410

22235 7590 10/13/2005

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EXAMINER

ABBOTT, YVONNE RENEE

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3644

DATE MAILED: 10/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/710,411

Applicant(s)

SOLOMON, IRVING

Examiner

Yvonne R. Abbott

Art Unit

3644

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 June 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 22-37 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 12-21 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/18/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In claim 10, "the soft layer" lacks prior antecedent basis. In claims 11 and 12, "the lower portion" lacks prior antecedent basis; if applicant is referring to the "bottom portion" as recited in claim 1, the claims should recite consistent terminology.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Freitas et al. (6,197,011). Freitas et al. show a diaper capable of being worn on a pet comprising a lightweight upper portion (28) and an absorbent bottom portion (27), comprising: means for securely attaching the diaper to the pet; and layered means for absorbing generally liquid discharge of the pet, whereby the diaper closely conforms to

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the contours of the pet's body; wherein the means for attaching comprises left and right slits (32) on a bottom portion of the diaper; and the means for attaching comprises a detachable elongated strip (31) on each side of the upper portion; wherein the strips are passable through corresponding slits; further comprising means for holding the diaper around the pet's tail.

3. Claims 1,2, 4, 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ohta (5,954,015). Ohta shows a one-piece diaper capable of being worn on a pet comprising a lightweight upper portion and an absorbent bottom portion (3), comprising: means (8,9) for securely attaching the diaper to the pet; and layered means for absorbing generally liquid discharge of the pet, whereby the diaper closely conforms to the contours of the pet's body; wherein the means for attaching comprises an elongated strip (9) on each side of the upper portion; further comprising means for holding the diaper around the pet's tail.

4. Claims 1,2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kelly (5,555,847). Kelly shows a one-piece (Figure 1) diaper capable of being worn on a pet comprising a lightweight upper portion and an absorbent bottom portion comprising: means (47) for securely attaching the diaper to the pet; and layered means for absorbing generally liquid discharge of the pet, whereby the diaper closely conforms to the contours of the pet's body; wherein the means for attaching comprises left and right slits (see Figures 2,3,5) on a bottom portion of the diaper; and the means for attaching comprises a detachable elongated strip (56) on

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each side of the upper portion; wherein the strips (76) on an upper portion are passable through corresponding slits (83) on a bottom portion; further comprising means for holding the diaper around the pet's tail; wherein the strips (76) are capable of being fastened together; wherein the upper portion comprises a soft layer and a layer of polyethylene (col. 2, lines 50-64).

5. Claims 1, 2, 4, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lowman (5,234,421). Lowman shows a one-piece diaper capable of being worn on a pet comprising a lightweight upper portion (28) and an absorbent bottom portion (27), comprising: means for securely attaching the diaper to the pet; and layered means for absorbing generally liquid discharge of the pet, whereby the diaper closely conforms to the contours of the pet's body; and the means for attaching comprises an elongated strip (30,32) on each side of the upper portion; and means for holding the diaper around the pet's tail.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohta in view of Igaue et al. (5,114,420). Although Ohta discloses an animal diaper having an

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absorbent bottom portion, it is not specifically disclosed that the bottom portion is at least partially rigid. Igaue et al. teach a diaper having an at least partially rigid absorbent section (13). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide that the absorbent layer of Ohta was rigid according to the teaching of Igaue et al. in order to give the diaper structural stability.

Allowable Subject Matter

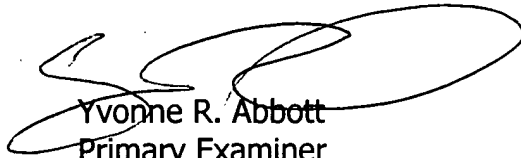
8. Claims 12-21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yvonne R. Abbott whose telephone number is (571) 272-6896. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 9:30am-6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Teri Luu can be reached on (571) 272-7045. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Yvonne R. Abbott
Primary Examiner
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